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Taking the High Road: Integrity is Integral to Success

A Commentary by Jason Curry



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Like many Christians throughout the world, I attempt to read my bible on a daily basis. Sometimes my friends and colleagues, who are often very busy and miss their daily devotion, ask me: "Well Reverend, what is the Word for today?" In an effort to provide them with a bit of inspiration, I often cite scriptures that served as a source of inspiration for me. Recently, I told a friend that I was very inspired by the book of Job. I will never forget the look that I received when I told my friend that I was inspired by a book of the bible in which someone experienced intense suffering. Her facial expression said: How could someone be inspired by someone who lost his family, his cattle and his health? Job's response to his suffering and affliction served as a source of inspiration for me as it has for countless generations before me. Job said: "And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed

be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly (Job 1: 21-22)." Job also said: "My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit. God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine INTEGRITY from me Job 27:4-5)." Over the span of many chapters, the life of Job is able to provide Christians such as you and I with a blueprint for addressing over overcoming suffering: 1) Give thanks to God in midst of affliction, trials and tribulation, and 2) maintain your integrity because you are always a child of God.

Webster's dictionary defines integrity as "moral soundness; honesty; freedom from corrupting influence or motive." Integrity has often been described as "taking the high road" of peace, civility and godliness instead of the low road of despair, anger or revenge. Job's suffering was not a result of sin, and like many of us, he did not understand that the Lord was really testing his faith (Chapter 1). Even

thought Job was born many years before Jesus Christ, he recognized that God will still the source of his strength, and he was determined to endure his suffering as a Christian should by (e.g., to pass his test of faith) by worshipping God (Job 1:20), avoiding sin (1:22) and blessing God (1:22).

As we continue to endure challenging time with our family, friends, colleagues and finances, let us continue to look to Job as a model of inspiration. Eventfully God provided Job with a tremendous blessing, and restored all that Job had lost during his test.